

North Valley Family YMCA
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June 11, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE: (916) 322-6440
Chairman Ross Johnson
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: June 12, 2008 Agenda Item #12
Prenotice Discussion of Amendments to Regulation 18946.4

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I write on behalf of the North Valley Family YMCA regarding proposed amendments to Regulation 18946.4. We urge the Fair Political Practices Commission to reject the proposed elimination of the "no value rule" that applies 501(c)(3) fundraising events.

North Valley Family YMCA at Porter Ranch is the largest not for profit community service organization in the San Fernando Valley. It is an important part of community life in the neighborhoods it serves. It works to meet the health and social service needs of 27,967 men, women, and children.

The YMCA works to strengthen families and to help people develop values and behavior that is consistent with Judeo-Christian principles. It is for people of all faiths, races, abilities, ages and incomes. The YMCA's strength is in the people it brings together.

A volunteer board sets policy for its executive director, who manages the operation with a full-time and part-time staff and volunteer leaders. The Y meets local needs through organized activities called programs. Your YMCA works to promote strong children and families, good health, a solid community, and a better world.

Mission Statement - The North Valley Family YMCA is an association of people of all ages, ethnic groups, and religious affiliations who are united in a common effort to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice and to enrich the quality of spiritual, mental, physical, and social life for their families, their communities and themselves.

Our YMCA serves the communities of Pacoima, Arleta, Sylmar, San Fernando, Mission Hills, Granada Hills, Northridge, Porter Ranch, Chatsworth and a portion of North Hills. The area's population totals 457,006. Approximately 134,104 are children under 18. The area is becoming more ethnically diverse. The number of residents of Asian and Hispanic heritage is increasing the fastest. Enrollment in the YMCA's programs reflects the diversity of the population both in terms of age and ethnicity.



Y We build strong kids,
strong families,
strong communities.

The new YMCA facility in Northridge opened in February 1999 and in March 2000 we opened our Youth Gymnasium and Teen and Family Activity Center to make up a comprehensive 34,000 square foot health and fitness facility. An 8,000 square foot Infant and Preschool child care facility was opened in 1994 beside Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. There are thirteen YMCA modulars on elementary school campuses serving kindergarten-5th grades. Numerous community facilities including schools and churches provide space for meetings and for the youth basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer program. The decentralization of programs allows your YMCA to serve neighborhoods throughout the area.

Direct financial aid goes to YMCA children and families totaling \$740,000 annually. We have 3 major fund raising events annually. The YMCA Kid to Camp Golf Tournament, YMCA Booster Club Dinner and the YMCA Current Support Campaign involve 300 volunteers to visit with supporters in our community. Over 2,800 donors support our YMCA. The support of the elected offices has been very important to our YMCA. The YMCA Booster Club Dinner was started by retired Councilman Hal Bernson and Councilman Greig Smith to support our "kids programs" in 1988. This was a very important turning point for our YMCA and helped us receive the funding we needed to support our programs and financial assistance given to our needy families. We raise 7% of our budget from fundraising events.

The attendance by public officials to our fundraising events helps us influence donors and supporters so we are able to raise the funding necessary to support our youth and family programs. With their involvement, their staffs are able to know first hand about our programs and activities. Many important development projects would not happen without their knowledge and involvement in our YMCA.

The involvement and attendance of public officials at our organization's fundraising events helps our nonprofit carry out its mission and goals by providing the opportunity to network and exchange information with government leaders regarding our charitable programs. Elimination of the "no value" rule could unnecessarily create disclosure, gift limit, or conflict of interest issues for public officials who support our charity, create an impediment to the officials' attendance at our fundraising events, and, therefore, negatively impact our organization.] For these reasons, we strongly urge you to reject the proposed changes to Regulation 18946.4 that would eliminate the current "no value" rule for 501(c)(3) charities.

Very truly yours,


Jane Stanton

Executive Director/VP
North Valley Family YMCA

cc: Commissioner Ray Remy
Commissioner A. Eugene Huguinin, Jr.
Commissioner Robert Leidigh
Commissioner Timothy A. Hodson
Scott Hallabrin, General Counsel
William J. Lenkeit, Senior Commission Counsel